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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 006100

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2015

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: TURKEY WANTS TO SEND HUMANITARIAN AID TO  
TALAFAR AND KIRKUK, SEEKS TO PARTICIPATE IN TALAFAR  
RECONSTRUCTION

REF: A. ANKARA 5452 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)B. ANKARA 5209

Classified By: Acting DCM Thomas Goldberger for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

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[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. Please see para. 7.

Humanitarian Aid for Talafar and Kirkuk  
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[1](#)2. (C) MFA Coordinator for Iraq and Afghanistan  
Reconstruction Amb. Koray Targay called in A/DCM Oct. 6 to  
inform us that Turkey wishes to provide humanitarian aid (HA)  
for Talafar during Ramadan. (NOTE: Head of Department Sedef  
Yavuzalp subsequently informed us Oct. 7 that Turkey wishes  
to split this aid between Talafar and Kirkuk, with  
approximately 60% of the aid going to Talafar. The GOT was  
thinking of sending primarily food unless we or the Iraqis  
determine an urgent need for non-food items. END NOTE.)  
Targay noted in passing the complaints lodged by the Turkish  
Red Crescent when it delivered HA to Talafar last month  
(reftel), but chalked up some of these to hurried Turkish  
planning. He viewed the September shipment as "a successful  
mission" despite these problems. He asked that the GOT, USG,  
and ITG work together to make the next shipment a successful  
effort.

[1](#)3. (C) A/DCM urged that the GOT discuss this matter as soon  
as possible with the ITG in order to improve coordination.  
Targay agreed, noting that the GOT will discuss the issue  
with the ITG, and the Turkish Red Crescent will also  
coordinate with its Iraqi counterpart.

Talafar Reconstruction: Water Project and Hospital  
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[1](#)4. (C) Now that the operations in Talafar are winding down,  
Targay said Turkey wanted to reiterate its interest in  
contributing to the water project for Talafar and to  
providing equipment for Talafar's hospital. Noting that  
Turkey was not yet prepared for security reasons to send a  
team to look at what it could do for the water project (see  
ref b), Targay asked if we could provide any feasibility  
study that has been done for this project so that Turkey can  
evaluate where it may be able to contribute in the near  
future.

[1](#)5. (C) Targay asked for our evaluation of the condition of  
Talafar's hospital. He understood that the hospital building  
had been sound but that it lacked equipment, adding that  
Turkey was ready to contribute items such as MRI machines,  
incubators, etc. Turkey may also be prepared to contribute  
to repairs to the building itself, if necessary.

Immediate Need for Rubble Clearing Equipment  
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[1](#)6. (C) A/DCM noted that we had been in direct touch with the  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Talafar, who identified for  
us some urgent heavy equipment needs to clear rubble; we  
handed the list to Targay. He responded that the MFA will  
look into availability. We noted that if Turkey were to  
offer this machinery as part of its aid package, Turkey would  
need to make the offer formally to the ITG. However, it is  
possible that the USACE and the Turkish contractors may just  
want to make this a straight commercial transaction. We are  
pursuing this with USACE while the Turks research their end.

Action Request  
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[1](#)7. (C) We would appreciate guidance from Washington and  
Mission Iraq on the Turks' HA offer. No doubt the Turks are  
calculating how their HA offer will play at home politically,  
but the humanitarian needs (at least in Talafar) are evident.  
We would also appreciate guidance on the Turks' offers  
regarding the Talafar hospital and water project. If there  
is a feasibility study available for the latter, please  
forward to us.  
MCELDOWNEY